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Clowns on Campus?

By Lauren Grasham
News Writer

Halloween is just around the corner, making it the perfect time for frightening but fun activities, such as horror movies and haunted houses. However, a sudden outbreak of people dressing up as an enjoyable form of children’s entertainment has many college students scared for their lives, and not in a good way. Clowns have been popping up on college campuses as well as other places all across the country, and all have been linked to either causing harm or threatening to cause harm in some way. Saint Joseph’s College has had their share of the clown scare recently when it was said that one was lurking around campus.

On the night of Wednesday, October 5, rumors were going around that a clown was seen at the college. This intrigued many students as they decided to hunt for it themselves. A good portion of Pumas were out that night all over campus, trying to see if they could find it. Tons of posts were made on social media websites including Facebook and Twitter indicating that, in fact, there was one on campus. This caused a great deal of concern for campus security, which resulted in them sending out extra employees as well as local law enforcement to protect students and keep them safe.



With rumors of clowns on campus, SJC Security works to keep campus safe.
Photo courtesy of Google Images

After a long night of searching and exploring, it was eventually discovered that no clowns were on campus. All the commotion was just through word of mouth and social media. The Internet made it quite easy for the “news” to get out, and also made it possible for more to hear about it and get caught up in the hype. Even though no clowns were spotted, it didn’t take away from the fact that this was still a very serious issue. While the possibility of a clown on campus is obviously threatening to students, mob mentality is something that should not be ignored either. An article on Time Magazine’s website stated that Penn State had a situation

similar to Saint Joe’s around the same time. A large group of students had heard a clown was nearby and decided to search for it. Other students reported that they were nearly causing a riot. They posted photos and videos of them screaming and chanting through the streets as they hunted for the said clown. Situations like these are dangerous because it is easily possible for a mob to cause harm to the campus, whether the intentions were there or not. While no mobs or riots occurred at Saint Joe, it was still easily possible for things to get out of control. Campus security has not been taking the situation lightly. Ernest Watson, Head of Safety

and Security, sent out an email to all students informing them of the incident, and what to do if they suspect a clown may be on campus. The email explains that in situations like this, they should call security at 219-863-1425. “Security and law enforcement are in the best position to respond to such incidents,” the letter reads. “In the event of an actual emergency or threat, other types of responses can add to the chaos and actually inhibit the work of law enforcement or other emergency responders.” Those with any first person information on what happened that night are asked to contact Campus Security or the Dean of Students Office.

More Changes to Halleck

By Ana Lara
News Writer



This area of the student lounge will soon be turned into additional conference rooms to better SJC.
Photo courtesy of Casey Snow

As the renovations to the Spirit Shoppe in the Halleck Student Center come to a close, a new project is now beginning. Measurements are being taken, plans are being drawn out, and contracts are being signed to turn nearly half of the commuter student lounge into additional conference rooms and offices to benefit SJC’s

campus and make navigation easier. These changes have left students longing for a voice in campus updates. The commuter lounge is not just a place for commuting students. The lounge serves as a meeting place for clubs on campus, a place to study and work on group projects, and a place

for students to go at night after the library closes. As a commuter student, SJC Janna Witvoet spends many hours each day in the commuter lounge studying between classes. The first week of September she was sitting in the commuter lounge when she noticed contractors beginning to take measurements of the area. In fear of losing the lounge, Witvoet wanted to have a voice and decided to take action. In an effort to prevent this project from taking place, Janna took six days to ask both students and faculty to sign a petition to discontinue the construction of a conference room. She worked with commuter representative Cori Lane to prevent further construction to Halleck. After beginning the petition on September 27, Witvoet got 504 signatures over six days. “I started the petition to be heard,” Witvoet tells The Observer. “Commuters need a place to go, and with a conference room I’m afraid we won’t have that place anymore.” The contract to construct the

conference room was already signed by the time Janna began the petition. Even though conference rooms will still be built, Witvoet was surprised by the amount of students and faculty that came together to help her cause. “Everyone was very open to signing the petition,” Witvoet reports, “I never thought that half of the student body would sign the petition, so that was really nice.” Construction of the conference room will begin as soon as construction for the registrar and the new bookstore is finished. Students are promised that the conference room will stay open for all students when it is not in use. Without the study area outside of Jazzman’s along with the upcoming conference rooms, students are looking for a new place to go between classes. There are currently plans to relocate the commuter lounge after construction is finished, but the area has been promised to be open to all students and will go to further bettering the Halleck center and making campus easier to navigate.

SJC Hosts Annual Take Back the Night Events

By Josie Gropp
News Writer

On October 16 and 17, Saint Joseph's College hosted Take Back the Night events to raise awareness during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. When asked what she hope people will take with them after the events, Carrie Greer says, "My hope is that campus members and the community will become more aware of the impact dating/ domestic violence and sexual assault has on survivors." Greer continued, citing the statistics in men and women who have experienced dating or domestic violence: "One in five college women, and one in sixteen

college men are victims of sexual assault while in college, and the statistics on dating violence while in college are just as high."

There are also events happening throughout the month in accordance to Domestic Violence Awareness Month other than the bonfire on Monday and the rally on Tuesday. On October 19th in the ballroom, Campus Ministry is hosting Dr. Terry Nelson-Johnson, who will be speaking about the relationship between healthy spirituality and healthy sexuality. On October 26 in the Shen, Carrie Greer's office will be hosting Robert Hackenson, who will be discussing Sexual Assault and

prevention. "He uses audience participation, including magic and hypnosis," says Greer, "so this will not be a typical lecture."

If you or someone you know is experiencing or might be experiencing domestic/dating violence there are advocates, including Carrie Greer, and other confidential employees to help if someone needs it. Other people who are available to talk include the Campus Ministry staff, Laura Wagner in Counseling Services, and Sharon Moore and Wanda Gifford in the Wellness Center. For more information visit takebackthenight.org.

Columbian Players Present: Lend Me a Tenor

By Natalie Dziadosz
News Writer

Our oldest club on campus, the Columbian Players, is putting on another of their popular productions. This fall, they are performing *Lend Me a Tenor* written by Ken Ludwig. As described on samuelfrench.com, "*Lend Me A Tenor* is set in September 1934. Saunders, the general manager of the Cleveland Grand Opera Company, is primed to welcome world famous, Tito Morelli, Il Stupendo, the greatest tenor of his generation, to appear for one night only as Otello. The star arrives late and, through a hilarious series of mishaps, is given a double dose of tranquilizers and passes out. His pulse is so low that Saunders and his assistant Max believe he's dead. In a frantic attempt to salvage the evening, Saunders persuades Max to get into Morelli's Otello costume and fool the audience into thinking he's Il Stupendo. Max succeeds admirably, but Morelli comes to and gets into his other costume ready to perform. Now two Otellos are running around in costume and two women are running around in lingerie, each thinking she is with Il Stupendo." This play is considered by many critics to be one of the best farce comedies in the last 25 years. The play won 3 Tony awards, 4 drama desk awards, and was nominated for the best revival of a play in 2010.

Here at SJC, we'll be laughing along with: graduate student Royce Cumming as Max, senior Toni Franco as Julia, junior Samantha Hoyt as Maggie, junior

Wesley Hutson as Tito, senior Logan James as the Bellhop, sophomore Danata Paulino as Diana, sophomore Toni Raver as Maria, and sophomore Benjamin Spannan as Henry. The play is staged by guest director Angela Marcum and produced by Professor John Rahe.

Ms. Marcum had this to say about the show: "I love that this play is so quick, fast paced and hilarious! It feels like you've gone on a roller coaster ride when you're done watching the show! The cast is phenomenal. It's a huge joy for me to guest direct here at SJC!" Angela Marcum hails from the University of Illinois, with a BFA in theatre. Marcum has directed for many theatre companies in the Midwest and has also been a teacher of music and theatre for years as well as a performer. She is married to Geoffrey Brewster, Director of Instructional Technology. They have four children, and they are expecting their first grandchild in February.

President of the Columbian Players Samantha Hoyt had this

to say about the show, "I'm really excited about this show. We have a hilarious script, an extremely talented cast, and a dedicated crew. Even our understudies are amazing. We've put in a lot of hard work and I can't wait for it to come together into a production that everyone will really enjoy."

Royce Cumming (Max) echoed her words: "This is my first show here at [SJC] and from the very start I knew I was in for a treat! Everyone involved with *Lend Me a Tenor* has so much talent and I could not have asked for a warmer introduction into the Columbian Players. Everything has been moving so quickly, from the building of the set to the blocking of the scenes; it has all run like a well-oiled machine. I cannot wait for our opening night performance to be able to share this gem of a show with everyone!"

Please join the Columbian Players for a laughter-filled evening at *Lend Me a Tenor* on October 20, 21 and 22 at 7:30 in the College Theater.



Above: Ben Spannan and Royce Cumming rehearsing for *Lend Me a Tenor*
Photo courtesy of Shalom Paulino

The Observer News Staff would like to make the following corrections:

- Antonia Thomas is not the current president of the Black Student Union. That position is currently held by Disha Roddy.
- The front page photo of Issue 2 was not a photo of Tito Hamilton and was not taken from a reliable source.

2016 Election Update: #TrumpTape



By Jose Arteaga
Political Columnist

Well, Donald Trump finally got a working mic. The October surprise was a real big surprise. On Friday, October 7th 2016, the Trump Tapes came out. The revelations that came out about Trump could have killed any political candidate running for office. Just imagine if Mitt Romney (2012) or John McCain (2008) had said these things. They would have ended their campaigns and their Vice Presidential candidates would have taken over. Nevertheless, the Trump campaign is in shambles.

This tape came out two weeks ago, just days before the second presidential debate on October 9th. After that, the Trump campaign was in chaos, and the day before the debate Trump called all his favorite friends. Gov. Christie, Sen. Sessions, and Mayor Giuliani all were summoned to Trump Towers to decide how to move forward. They were there all day and the best they came up with was to bring forward President Bill

Clinton's supposed sexual assault accusers.

I find this move very risky for Trump. First, Bill Clinton is not running for President; Hillary is running for President. Second, the golden rule in politics is do not attack the families of politicians. Trump clearly stepped over the line on this rule, and generally there is no need for this kind of talk in politics. And lastly, if Trump wants to have people come out and speak about their accusation against President Bill Clinton, then Trump should do the same for the people coming out against him instead of calling them a bunch of "liars."

Earlier this week, Trump said that if he loses the election, it is rigged. However, when you insult women, Hispanics, African Americans, POWs, people with disabilities, and Muslims it's hard for many people to believe that the election is rigged.

Actually, it sounds to me like democracy. I know that I'm supposed to be bipartisan when it comes to writing these columns but I just can't hold it back. When Trump insults people, he does it against my family, my friends and the great people of the United States. We deserve better than this man.



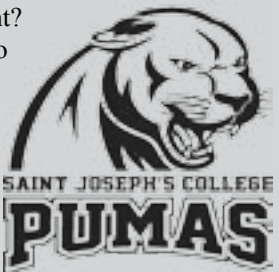
Left: Trump's campaign was seriously hurt by the #TrumpTapes released two weeks ago

Photo courtesy of Google Images

Upcoming Puma Events!

- October 20,21,22 - Fall Play
- October 22 - Family Day
- October 24 - PAC Bingo Night
- October 27 - Health Fair
- October 31 - Trick-or-Treat for the Hungry

Want to get the word out about your event?
Email the date and name of your event to
Casey Snow at csnow@saintjoe.edu or
Alyssa Cook at acw10024@saintjoe.edu!



Goodbye Field Advantage

By Stephen Nickel
Opinions Writer

Over the years, teams have fought tooth and nail for the coveted possession of home field advantage. That means the other team has to come into your house and beat you on the field you know best, with your fans constantly harassing and intimidating them. These fans are the ones who create this nearly impossible atmosphere for a visitor victory. Not only do they get into the heads of the opposing players but they give the home team confidence and encouragement to play above expectations. This is the reason that the fans are often called the 12th man, because they make it seem like the home team has an extra player. It is a symbiotic relationship where teams feed off the energy of the fans and the fans feed off the energy and performance of the team. Teams love to play home games for this very advantage.

Unfortunately, that advantage has died here at Saint Joseph’s College. We go to a school that discourages fan involvement in the games. I know from personal experience that there are many students who will not attend sporting events here because they

are afraid they will get in trouble for cheering on their team too passionately. School security at these events has single handedly killed the team spirit of the college.

Now, I’m not so naïve as to believe that some security is not necessary. They are trying to keep the game sportsmanlike and protect the reputation of the school. However, when you can’t stand by the railing of a football

game or cheer on your team at a basketball, volleyball, and soccer game, things have gone way wrong. In my own experience, I have seen security reprimand students at the soccer games for using the names of opposing team players or showing any sign of disagreement with the referee when they make a bad call. None of these instances used any profanity, they were simply a passionate fan of the

team and the school voicing an opinion and contributing to the home field advantage. All these reprimands do is tell students that their passion for their team and school is a bad thing, that the school will not tolerate.

Until security realizes that fan involvement is the advantage of playing on your own field and part of sports, the home field advantage of Saint Joseph’s College is dead.



Above: SJC Alumni Field
Photo courtesy of Institutional Advacent and Marketing.

Political Opinions

By Johna Bottorff
Opinions Writer

You know what is killing me most about this election? Everything. The two most unpopular people in history are the candidates and for some reason, America thought that would be a good idea. Honestly, I don’t know a whole lot about what they want to do and what they have done. Frankly, I couldn’t care less. That sounds bad I know, but come on, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton? Clinton didn’t get elected when she ran against Obama and how much political experience does Trump really have?

I think the other thing that bothers me most, is people telling me why I should vote for either one of them. I must have a sign on my head that says, “please tell me why I should vote for (insert candidate name here).” Last time I checked, I didn’t ask for your opinion about either of these people. Don’t ask me who I’m voting for and don’t tell me who I should vote for. I will stop listening, and then I will proceed to change the subject. What happened to the time when we kept who we were voting for a secret? I want that back. Keep your political views to yourself, because when it comes right down to it, it doesn’t matter who is president. They don’t have any real power. They can say all these things now, but every bill has to go through Congress and if Congress doesn’t like it, it dies. So, if you see me and want to talk politics, please keep walking. I DO NOT CARE WHO YOU ARE VOTING FOR! And if you want to tell me who to vote for don’t, I already voted.



Above: 2016 U.S. presidential candidates, Donald Trump (R) and Hillary Clinton (D).
Photo courtesy of Google Images.

Spontaneity in Travel

By Brianna Velasco
Opinions Writer

My family has always loved to travel. Whether far or near, it’s one of those things I look forward to. And if there’s one thing I’ve learned through my travels, it’s that plans are overrated.

For one, an itinerary makes the trip much more stressful and less enjoyable. After all, how can people truly appreciate where they are, if they are constantly worrying about staying on schedule? It also makes it more difficult to get the full view of the area they are exploring; they may not have included a proper amount of time for the activity and they may want to stay longer. However, they would be unable to do so, because they have other places to be. I’d much rather have the freedom to be where I want, when I want to be there. than be chained to a schedule that is always hovering in the back of my mind.

Also, a specific plan would most likely cause wayward travelers to worry more than they otherwise would have. There have been numerous occasions when my family and I, because of the change in language and location, have boarded the wrong train or bus and ended up somewhere entirely different,

than where we were supposed to be. A person with an agenda would begin to panic about how to get back on track. But, when traveling spontaneously, people can simply shrug and wait to find out where they’re going. It may turn out to be better than anything they would have thought to plan.

Spontaneity makes travel easier and more fun. You can go anywhere you choose to go. If you hear about something that you are interested in, you can simply find a way to get there and be on your way. It is a great way to experience new places and new activities since you have the freedom to do almost anything. Thus, in the ironic words of David Hockney, if you ever have the chance to travel whether close to home or far away, “you must plan to be spontaneous.”



Above: Photo courtesy of Google Images.

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Phoenix Wright: Ace Attorney-Spirit of Justice

By Connor Ring
Features Writer

Ace Attorney always has this way of pushing itself to the limit and bringing something new and engaging to its sequels. *Phoenix Wright: Ace Attorney – Spirit of Justice* is no different in this regard. The game is chock-full of well-written story arcs, hilarious dialogue, and your fair share of lovable characters, all wrapped up in one giant emotional package.

The biggest part of *Ace Attorney* games is always the story. After his return to the courtroom, Phoenix Wright has returned to his usual state of business: defending clients and defeating false charges. His law firm consists of two other employees: Apollo Justice, a lawyer whose Chords of Steel boom throughout the courtroom, and Athena

Cykes, a psychologist-gone-lawyer that can see your emotions through testimony. However, in a strange turn of events, Wright must travel abroad to the Kingdom of Khura'in, a country in the midst of revolution. With the two lawyers back home holding the fort, and Wright fighting court battles in a country where lawyers are taboo, the stakes have never been higher.

The presentation of this game is amazingly well-conducted, giving us a visual style and flair that not many games can really boast. Despite working on the portable 3DS hardware, the game looks stunning. Its sound design is top-notch. When I played through this game, I was immersed completely into the action and suspense, and with every “Objection!” I would

throw down. The harsh reality would settle in further. This game is brutal to lawyers, and I say that with previous *Ace Attorney* games under my belt. The game will fight you tooth and nail and make you feel like absolute garbage for trying to stick up for the truth, with everyone seeming to plot against you. It’s an amazing feeling to finally show all of them up by successfully proving your defendant innocent.

However, there is a catch to all of this. The gameplay itself is not an open-world game, but rather a text-based narrative ride-along. You aren’t truly playing the game so much as you are pointing and clicking items and then picking the right evidence in court. Other than that, the gameplay is unappealing, but then again, that isn’t what *Ace Attorney*



Above: The cover for the game Phoenix Wright: Ace Attorney- Spirit of Justice. Photo courtesy of Google Images.

is about. If you want a game with engaging story and a great visual experience, this game fits the bill. However, if you are looking for more gameplay and less story, I recommend you don’t try to push this on yourself.

The game is an amazing experience to play, but it just isn’t for everyone. I give *Spirit of Justice* a 9 out of 10 for its engaging story and fantastic presentation.

By Justice McGee
Features Writer

Let’s talk *Lemonade*. Beyoncé’s newest album, *Lemonade*, has really blown up since its release on April 23rd of this year.

Of course, it was followed by drama that’s been taking over the singer’s personal life. It’s also been said that the album is a product of said drama. However, that doesn’t change the fact that this album is a hit within Beyoncé’s very large fanbase.

I, myself, have never been big on Beyoncé. I’m not into R&B, but I must admit, I did enjoy a few of the songs in this album. The first song in the album that I heard was “Sorry.” I had originally heard a small excerpt in a random video on Facebook. Having heard that little excerpt, I was intrigued and travelled to YouTube to listen to the full song. I was infatuated. The tone in the song was so much different from older songs I’d heard by Beyoncé. Of course it was a “girl power” song, but not so much like “Run the World.” It was more aggressive. Imagine seeing a woman being torn down by someone



Left: The Cover art to Beyoncé’s newest album, *Lemonade*. The album includes powerful songs that are speculated to reflect themes from her personal life and world events.

for years and finally snapping. You could feel that in “Sorry.” You could feel Beyoncé’s anger, pain, and exasperation. I won’t lie, the song was instantly added to my playlist.

Another song in the popular album is “Hold Up.” This song is softer and the melody is sweeter, which is completely different from the video itself, showing Beyoncé walking around with a baseball bat and whacking almost everything in sight. The lyrics are rather repetitive, yet enjoyable to listen to. The rhythm in the song is different from “Sorry,” but equally as entertaining.

Another song on the album, “Formation,” was truly powerful. It was more than just a song or a music video; it was Beyoncé’s way of getting a message out there-

multiple messages at that. Business Insider believes that a few of the things Beyoncé was mentioning in “Formation” was Hurricane Katrina, police brutality, and ownership of your identity. This song was a hit during Beyoncé’s guest appearance at the Super Bowl.

“Don’t Hurt Yourself” is also a song I have personally enjoyed. It was much more aggressive than “Sorry” and different than other songs I’ve heard by Beyoncé. There was a lot of anger in this song and I’d definitely refrain from upsetting my significant other with this song in their playlist. Everything about this song was powerful.

If you have not heard any of the songs in Beyoncé’s album *Lemonade*, I highly recommend you do.

The Jungle Book

By Wesley Hutson
Features Writer

How many people are upset with the trend Disney has set by rebooting all of their animated classics as live action blockbusters? The latest one released, *The Jungle Book*, is a revisioning of the animated feature of the same name from 1967 and the last animated film made by Disney before Walt Disney’s death in December of 1966. The movie itself follows the story of a child named Mowgli, who has been living in the jungles of India his entire life, but now must flee from the tiger, Shere Khan. While accompanied by Bagheera the black panther, he meets a mesmerizing python Kaa, a easygoing bear Baloo, and the manipulative orangutan King Louie, all the while learning what it means to be a man in a hostile world.

The movie does a good job of updating the story for a modern audience, with a plot line much more coherent than its predecessor, as well as giving the characters real motivations for their

actions other than simply being animals. The story is surprisingly dark and deep for a PG rating, with violence and philosophy sometimes walking hand in hand, but at its heart, this is a family movie.

The Jungle Book has more CGI than the Star Wars prequels. The only thing that actually is real on screen is the child actor. The scenery, characters, and effects were all made with the Unreal Engine and extensive motion capture technology. It is so impressive that it doesn’t take you out of the movie, and the reality of the world is very solid.

Going into this, I had very neutral expectations for the film, though I was a fan of the original, and avoided watching it for the longest time. I was very impressed with the visuals, the score, the performances, and most importantly the story and character development. I know we’re supposed to be adults, but this is a Disney movie I definitely would watch on a rainy day free of classes.

features

Stranger Things

By Justin Hays
Features Writer

In a competition for growth and relevancy, *Netflix* has been aggressively expanding their “Netflix Original” productions. With their new series, *Stranger Things*, they have struck gold. Released this July, *Stranger Things* has earned a large viewership through an endearing cast and absolutely thrilling storyline.

Direct by the Duffer Brothers, *Stranger Things* takes viewers back to the 80’s in small town Indiana. The storyline follows the epic journey of three young sci-fi fanatics on their struggle to find their best friend, who has disappeared under more than suspicious circumstances. The more the friends learn about the disappearance, the more “strange” the events become. On their quest to rescue their friend, they are aided by the appearance of the curious young girl “Eleven.” The three friends soon learn that Eleven is certainly anything but an ordinary 12 year old. With her help, the three friends push into

frightening territory that breaks the distinction between reality and fiction. Viewers can expect to see anything from parallel universes, sensory deprivation pools, and LSD experiments gone awry.

Stranger Things keeps viewers constantly at the edge of their seats through endless suspense. The 80’s soundtrack seems to always find the right sound for the moment, and only heightens the thrill. Heavy in synths, this soundtrack is one that is not meant for just background support, but plays a critical role in the tone and feel of each moment. The charming young cast quickly captures the hearts of fans through their quirky humor and dynamic. Each episode is jam packed with tension and keeps viewers guessing what could possibly be next.

Even those who are not into traditional science fiction will find the action gripping. The Duffer Brothers have incorporated just enough sci-fi to satisfy their love for the genre, but have kept

it relatable enough for any fan to find it interesting. From the loveable nerds to the courageous sheriff, there is a character in the series for every person to identify with, and a love triangle that never truly gives viewers a true person to root for. The many layers of the show provide gives the storyline a rich and complex feel.

The first season is only 8 episodes long, and leaves viewers craving for more. With each episode being 40 minutes long, it becomes nearly impossible to just stop at one or two episodes in a sitting. After one season, *Stranger Things* is threatening to enter into the upper echelons of *Netflix* shows. The last episode brings more questions than answers, and sets the tone for a potentially sinister next season. With the next season slotted for release next year, viewers will have plenty of time to guess what could possibly be next.



Above: A poster for Stranger Things Netflix Original Series.
Photo courtesy of Google Images.

The Hammer Of Thor

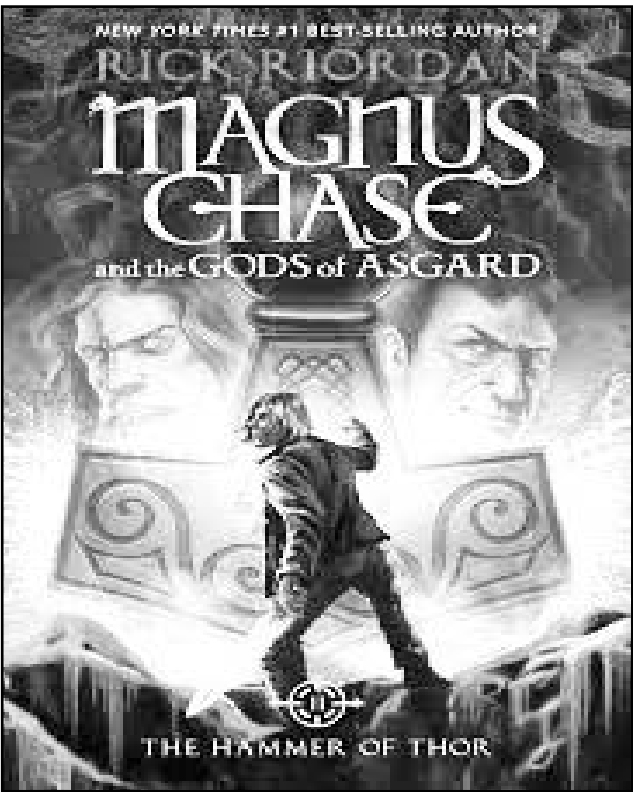
By Cameron Adams
Features Writer

I think that this review was a fitting one. Last year around this time I reviewed the first book in this series, *The Sword of Summer*. Now I get the chance to review the next book in the series, *The Hammer of Thor*.

The Hammer of Thor is the second of Rick Riordan’s *Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard* series. The series is about a reluctant hero who must now deal with the crazy Norse-god-filled world he is now a part of, while at the same time, trying to stop the Apocalyptic event, Ragnarok. The book itself is about Magnus’s adventures while trying to recover Thor’s hammer. When Mjolnir is missing and comes up in the hands of giants. The giants agree to return the weapon, but only if Loki helps to negotiate a deal in order to get it. The only problem is that what Loki is asking for very well may be way too high.

#1 New York Times best-selling author, Rick Riordan has had success after success since 2006 with the debut of his critically acclaimed series *Percy Jackson and the Olympians*. *The Lightning Thief*. This book is no different.

The Hammer of Thor’s plot is part of what makes it stand out as much as it does. It’s engaging, compelling, and just plain great. You’re completely engrossed in the story from the time you read about the assassination of the goat to the time that Percy Jackson is mentioned. It’s fast-



Left: Book cover of The Hammer of Thor
Image courtesy of Google Images.

paced, exciting, and awesome. One that you won’t be able to stop reading once you’ve started.

If you’re going to talk about the plot of a story, you have to talk about the characters. Because great characters interacting with a great plot is what makes a book great. Riordan has crafted complex and compelling characters that you just can’t help but become attached to. Magnus still possesses that reluctant hero trait, but the difference in him this time is that he’s accepted his position. Blitzen and Hearth are the same as they were before, great characters who just make the

story better. Sam’s story arch adds a certain depth that you really can’t help but appreciate. The new character, Alex Fierro, is one who is particularly interesting. The humor of the book is what you’ve come to expect from a Rick Riordan novel, consistent and well-timed. I was laughing out-loud when I read this.

This is a book that anyone and everyone should read. I highly recommend it, especially to those who are familiar with the other works of Rick Riordan, including the rest of the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series, *Heroes of Olympus* series, *The Trials of Apollo* series and the *Kane Chronicles* series.

Volunteering in Rensselaer

By Karen Gramajo
Features Writer

Brothers Robert Reuter and Tim Hemm have helped food pantries for years and encourage students to join. It is a great experience for everyone and those who participate enjoy it a lot. The origin is interesting. Brother Robert Reuter started helping the Sorrowful Mother Food Pantry in Wheatfield, Indiana, roughly five or six years ago because the person who runs the pantry needed assistance.

Students participate in the food pantry in Wheatfield and others participated in the Trick or Treat for the Hungry. It starts with students dressing in Halloween costumes, knocking on doors, and asking people for canned goods instead of candy.

Kylie Hill has volunteered for Sorrowful Mother Food Pantry for years and enjoys it very much. “It’s a very rewarding experience. The clients really benefit from the pantry.”

She is not the only one who helps in the food pantry. Vanessa Pashke volunteers her time in the food pantry in Rensselaer called the Good Samaritan. The pantry is open on Tuesdays (8am to 12pm), Thursdays (8am to 3pm), and every third Saturday of every month. The main person who handles the food pantry in Rensselaer is Bob Souza. Vanessa invited me to help out in the pantry one Saturday and I am learning so much.

The pantry is run by the churches in Rensselaer every year. I volunteered during the summer of 2016. I received the chance

to help with the less fortunate and learn small things about them. Their loving children, their knowledge of music that even I listen to, and the arts. I met people who are my age.

There were two gentlemen from Kentucky who are spending two years traveling around the United States and volunteering for different events. They have finished high school and are working from their parish in volunteer work. They participated in the pantry the same day when I visited and I learned that in a week or so, they would be heading to Arizona. It’s neat to find people from other places coming together to share one value: love. That is the similarity with the Sorrowful Mother Food Pantry, Trick or Treat for the Hungry, and Good Samaritan. Servitude and love.

Brother Rob Reuter talks about how we are not different from one another. The person across from you when you are giving them food is you. A reflection of you. Christian Humanism Core taught me so much about humanity. I love the lectures from Declaration of Human Rights to the parables of Jesus Christ in Core 9.

I learned about the deep meaning and significance of love and the term compassion. To suffer with someone is more than what the person is receiving and that is what makes a human.

Pumas Prepare for GLVC

By Hannah Wallace
Sports Editor

The Pumas are preparing themselves for the day they have been training for since May - the Great Lakes Valley Conference Championship in Missouri on Saturday, October 22nd. Leading up to this race, the men and women have endured hundreds of miles of training in scorching temperatures, freezing rain, and terrible terrain. However, it is the most intense and dreaded training that prepares them for races as important as these. Two weeks ago, the Pumas competed in their last race before post-season at Lewis University, and the results were satisfying.

In the 8k race for the men, seniors Justin Hays and Brian Eurton led the team. Hays came through with a 17th place finish in a time of 25:11 and Eurton was second for the Pumas with a time of 26:01. Trailing behind them were Lane Barrett and Marcus Fierek. Barrett and Fierek finished neck in neck with times of 26:44 and 26:55. Stepping up for the Pumas was freshman Ihab Benlamkaddem keeping his other two Pumas in sight as he finished in a time of 27:09 while his fellow freshman Matt Wielgus continues to keep his eye on the pack ahead. The men are continuing to work to move their pack closer together as each day of training and racing goes by.

The ladies raced a 6k and were led by Nikki Thiede who finished 28th overall with a time of 22:56. Only about a minute behind was teammate



*Pictured: Women's Cross Country Team
Photo courtesy of Robin Werstler*

Meghan Hennessey who finished with a time of 23:54, followed by Brooke Werstler, Hannah Wallace, and Hannah Dawson. Werstler came through at 24:34 while Wallace and Dawson stayed close during the race finishing with times of 24:57 and 25:03. The lady pumas are now beginning to prepare for conference, and as stated in the previous articles, the ladies are working just as hard as the men to stay packed together. Bartz and Strang are continuing to fight through their injuries and are improving more than ever, while we can also expect a promising performance from freshman Hannah Conner.

As the Conference Championship is only two days away, Coach Bill Massoels had this to say about the race: "I thought we performed pretty well, all things considered. This is a competitive invite and we're just finishing up our base training and are moving into the next stage of our season." For

the last two weeks, the Pumas have focused on nothing besides that next stage of training. With trust in their coach, their training,

and themselves, it is no doubt the Pumas will come through the finish line this Saturday leaving it all on the course.



*Pictured: Men's Cross Country Team
Photo courtesy of Susie Hays*

Puma Football: You Win Some, You Lose Some

By Christine Manika
Sports Writer

The Pumas went back on the road to Missouri as they went to face off against the Lincoln University Blue Tigers on Saturday, October 8th. The Tigers were hungry for a win because it was their homecoming, which made the Pumas hungrier to steal that win from the Tigers. Luckily after a rocky start, the Pumas took the Tigers' Homecoming Win 27-17.

The Blue Tigers played extremely well during the game, in the first half. The Tigers answers first in the game with a 45-yard field goal. They added to their lead with 14 plays later in the first quarter that ended with a five-yard touchdown run.

The Pumas were trailing 10-0 and Phillip Kimble went back to work with his crew. Kimble connected with Tremel Glasper for a 69-yard during the start second quarter for a 10-7 score. Towards the end of the half with 20 seconds on the clock, the Pumas took control of the ball. Kimble passed to Latrell Giles for 30 yards to get half way with 11 seconds left. Kimble then found Nate Tidwell for a 52-yard touchdown with two



*Pictured: Nathaniel Tidwell
Photo courtesy of Fr Tim McFarland*

seconds remaining. At the half, the Pumas were leading the Blue Tigers 14-10.

In the middle of the third quarter, Kimble got the ball to Martez Walker who connected with Tidwell for a 27-yard touchdown pass. Things got messy during the fourth quarter when the Tigers completed a 70 yard drive in two minutes. This led to a Blue Tigers' touchdown to bring them up 20-17.

The Puma offense could not answer back on the next drive and Lincoln was eager to score again. Puma defense held on to the Tigers and their work paid off. The Pumas got back on the field when Isaac James broke the Tigers defense for a 44 yard touchdown.

With a few minutes in the game the Tigers miss a field goal. The Pumas went back to work to run out the clock. This would result in a Puma victory!

Following the victory, however, was a loss for Pumas against McKendree University on October 15th. The Pumas fought hard up until the last two minutes of the game when McKendree came back to score - ending the game 16-20 SJC.

The Pumas will return to their home turf on Saturday, October 22nd to face Southwest Baptist University. We can expect the kick-off to begin at 12:00pm and the Pumas to win.

Upcoming Events

October 21st

Men and Women's Soccer at
Lewis University
5:00 & 7:30pm

Volleyball vs University of
Southern Indiana
7:00pm

October 22nd

Men and Women's Cross
Country vs Great Lakes Valley
Conference Championship
in Rolla, Mo
10:30am

Football vs Southwest Baptist
University
12:00pm

Volleyball vs Bellarmine
University
3:00pm

October 23rd

Men and Women's Soccer vs
University of Wisconsin-Parkside
12:00 & 2:30pm

October 26th

Men and Women's Soccer vs
University of Indianapolis
5:00 & 7:30pm

October 28th

Volleyball at Quincy University
7:00pm

October 29th

Volleyball at Truman State
University
3:00pm

Football at Davenport University
7:00pm

SJC Soccer Battles: Women Earn Win

By Bronte Eather
Sports Writer

Another two weeks of soccer has passed by with both the Men's and Women's soccer teams fighting for a win. The Pumas travelled to Missouri and Illinois and faced Truman State University and Quincey University. They then competed against three other Universities at home.

The Lady Pumas saw their first win of the season against Salem International University on Wednesday, October 12, giving Coach Justin Olson his first NCAA victory. In the few days that followed, the Pumas played two great home games against Maryville University and University of Missouri – St. Louis, but were unable to pull out the win.

The Women's Soccer team faced Truman State University (TSU), ranked #10 in the nation, in Missouri on the 7th of October. After the game was pushed back 3 hours due to a rain delay, the Lady Pumas had the ranked team

at a 0-0 score at half time, with goal keeper Melissa Kuhar making 5 saves. Despite their fight, Truman showed their skills and scored 3 goals in the second half. The girls brushed off their loss and looked forward to their match against Quincey University (QU) on October 9th. Quincey was able to hold a 2 goal lead going into the second half. SJC fought back, but was unable to find the back of the net, with freshman Mackenzie Callison having two shots on goal. The end score was 4-0 in favor of Quincey University.

The Lady Pumas hosted and won a non-conference game against Salem International University. With a rainy game, the girls were able to come out with a victory ending the game with a 5-0 score line. The girls found all 5 of the goals in the first half. With injuries occurring for the other team, the Pumas kept the ball at their feet and held their lead. "It was very exciting to get our first win. Hopefully we keep this momentum going into



Above: Junior defender Jenna Arnold helps protect the goal during one of the home games this past weekend. The Lady Pumas won 1 of their 3 home games this weekend, earning their first win of the season. Photo Courtesy of Susan Kelly-Johnson

our next games, and for the rest of the season," says Junior defender Jenna Arnold.

Next, the Women's Soccer team faced off against Maryville University (MU) and University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL) on the 14th and 16th of October, respectively. The Women's team fell to MU 3-1, with senior Kennedy Hathaway scoring in the second half giving the girls some momentum. Similarly, against UMSL, the girls fell again by 3-1. Being down 2-1 at half time, the

girls fought hard for the equalizer; however, they came up short.

The Men's Soccer team saw the same results over weekend they spent in Missouri and Illinois, finding themselves with two loses. TSU was able to find a goal early in the match and held that lead until the end, giving the SJC boys a 1-0 loss. Despite having shots on goal, the boys were unable to answer with their own goal. With chips on their shoulders, the Puma men came out strong against QU. Scoring a goal, Freshman Charlie

Mann gave the SJC boys an early lead. The boys were unable to hold the lead into the second half, with QU scoring an equalizer in the final minutes. The second half saw many shots from the Men's soccer team, but QU was able to triple their score and win the game 3-1.

The SJC men were unable to see a win at their home weekend as well. Falling early to MU, the boys were unable to counter and left the game with a 1-0 loss. Looking for a win, the boys went into the game against UMSL hard. Ending the game in a draw 1-1, the boys went into double overtime hoping to find the back of net. Playing a man down because of a red card ejection, the SJC boys fell to a goal in the 2nd overtime to UMSL, leaving the Pumas without a win.

Saint Joseph's College Soccer will finish up their season within the next two weeks, playing all conference games. They will face Missouri S&T on October 19 and Lewis University on October 21, both away. Then on the 23rd, the Pumas will face University of Wisconsin - Parkside and on the 26th, University of Indianapolis, both at home.

Athlete Spotlight: Marcus Fierek

By Arriana Parrish
Sports Writer



Photo courtesy of SJC Athletics

Fierek runs cross country here at Saint Joe. He is a freshman from Brownsburg, IN. He is studying Business. He came to Saint Joseph's College after his cousin, Justin Hays, told him about The College. After meeting Coach Massoels and being introduced to the wonderful programs at Saint Joseph's College, he knew he wanted to come here.

He says so far "I enjoy the environment that both coach and the team has established at SJC. It's inviting, fun, competitive. It has created a strong bond on the team and makes us push one another even harder."

Q: What are your personal goals for this season?

A: My personal goal this year is to run sub 26 mins in the 8k and sub 32 mins in the 10k. Also, I want to close the gap between both Justin and Brian and myself as much as possible.

Q: What are your team goals for this year?

A: My team goals for the year are to have strong finishes in our conference and regionals and see what we can do from there.

What do you like most about SJC and running cross country here?

A: I enjoy the environment that both coach and the team has established at SJC. It's inviting, fun, competitive. It has created a strong bond on the team and makes us push one another even harder.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: Hanging out with friends, playing video games, basketball, and soccer.

Q: Who is your role model?

A: My mother is my biggest role model.

Q: What are your plans for after graduation from SJC?

A: I'm still not 100% sure on what I want to after I graduate, but I'm considering going to law school.

Women's Volleyball Bookends Losses with Two Wins

By Kylie Hill
Co-Editor-in-Chief

In the past two weeks, the Women's Volleyball Team battled for success, starting with a strong win against University of Illinois Springfield (UIS), falling with three losses, and finally earning a win against Davis & Elkins (D&E).

On October 7th, the Lady Pumas traveled to Springfield, IL to compete against UIS. The Pumas got off to a strong start, winning the first set, but a drop in attacking percentages in the second and third sets allowed UIS to take the wins. However, the Pumas made a robust recovery in the final two sets of match, winning 25-19 and 15-10. This allowed SJC to win the match and take home a win. Freshman Setter Alyssa Spears lead the match with an impressive 59 assists

and Junior outside hitter Bridget Krasowski led the team with 21 kills and 4 blocks.

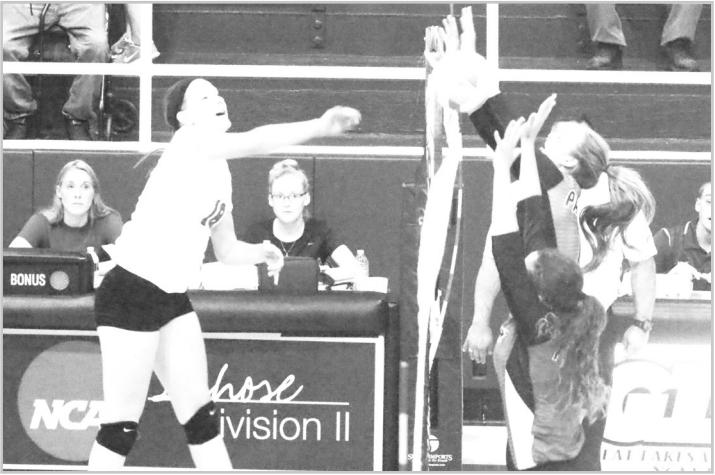
Unfortunately, coming off of their energized win, the Saint Joseph's Volleyball Team was unable to form a winning streak. Instead, they followed their comeback with three tough losses against McKendree University (McK) on October 8th, Tiffin University (TU) on October 14, and Northwood University on October 14th. The Pumas lost to both McK and TU in three set matches. Low attacking percentages and errors led to the opposing teams' victories. However, the Lady Pumas began to make improvements against TU with the set points being much closer: 23-25, 20-25, and 22-25.

The Lady Pumas continue to make improvements, only losing 2-3 against Northwood

University. SJC started off forcefully, winning the first two sets of the match. In the next two sets, Northwood took the lead. The Pumas fought, winning points back, but it was too late, and The Lady Pumas lost the sets 19-25 and 22-25. In the final set, the Pumas fought back hard, but lost 13-15.

Coming off their 3-loss streak, the Pumas made a comeback, rounding out the last two weeks with a nice bookend of wins. The Lady Pumas defeated D&E 3-1 to end their day of play on October 14th. The Pumas were hungry for a win, and they certainly satisfied it. Pumas took the first set 25-14, with an impressive .250 kill percentage. Their kills caused the D&E to commit seven errors. D&E took the second set by two points, but the Pumas came back in full force in the third and fourth sets. In the fourth set, Freshmen Shawntel James and Alyssa Spears, and Junior Madyson Anthony executed three straight kills to secure the win.

Despite their struggles, the Pumas were able to make great improvements and comebacks in the last two weeks.



Left: Freshman Julia Kruzan executes a kill that her opponants attempt to block.

Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland.

the back page

Creative Corner



Sophomore Timothy Harris works on his coil pot in Ceramics I



Painting by Erik Brebner titled "Shinjimasu"

Heavy Hearts

By: Samantha Hoyt

I have this theory about broken hearts.
They really do grow heavy-
It is more than just your mind telling your chest
That it is not strong enough-
Your muscles really strain to carry extra weight.
Perhaps your heart swells with tears
To keep your eyes company
Or in its compassion steals their pain.
Perhaps your blood has lost the motivation
To leave its warm, safe chambers
And out of love your heart stretches to give it shelter.
Or maybe it takes the hurtful words
And hides them away so your ears don't have to hear them
Or your brain dwell on them.
And that is why it is the gentlest hearts that are heaviest-
The more they love, the more pain weighs them down.

Faces

By: Christina O'Connell

I walk next to her,
A dark silhouette in the sunlight.
Faces come towards us,
Why don't you look up?
Pay attention,
Stop looking at your feet
And acting like they aren't there.
Show them a smile,
What I wouldn't give to smile.
They pass by,
Eyes cast away,
Not even a glance,
The other,
Only making eye contact with their device.
We continue to walk together,
Passing blank faces,
I want to scream, yell, call out to them,
But I have no voice,
She does.
Why doesn't she use it?
I'm invisible,
Not her or them.
They can see each other,
Not me,
But they don't.
They're just faces
passing by.



Water color painting by Meghan Hennessey titled "Red Herald"